

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following replacement paragraph.

With reference to the drawings wherein like numerals represent like parts throughout the figures, the invention described herein, a rapid response safety cutting tool, or cutting tool, is generally designated by the numeral 10. Cutting tool 10 comprises a blade member 11, a blade support 12, a sliding guide 13, and arm straps 14A and 14B, depicted in FIG. 2. The sliding guide allows line with smaller diameter than the entrance height 35 to slide freely on its surface, guiding the line into a blade support opening 24, until the line impinges on the blade member, at which point the line is cut in a single pass if the line is pulled against the blade member with a large enough force. In the particular embodiments shown in the drawings and herein described, the cutting tool is designed with somewhat arbitrary dimensions depicted in the figures, and to be worn by a kite sailor on the underside of the sailor's forearm. However, it should be understood that the principles of the present invention are equally applicable to virtually any form of cutting tool that has the advantages set forth herein, and useful to people other than a kite sailor. Therefore, it is not intended to limit the principles of the present invention to the specific embodiments shown and such principles should be broadly construed.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following replacement paragraph.

The blade member in the presently described preferred embodiment consists of two opposing linear cutting edges which intersect at a mutually produced apex 17A with an angle to be determined by simple trial and experiment for the most efficient cutting of the specific line for which the particular design is intended. The sharp cutting edge of the blade member can also be described as a "V"-shape, as in U.S. Pat. Nos. 1,338,248, 745,994, and British Patent No. 168,788, for example. There are possible embellishments to the blade member design of this preferred embodiment, for example, involving cutting-edge serrations. Also the blade member may actually be assembled from two separate opposing blades which may be easier than the manufacture of a blade member made of a single piece. Other sharp cutting edge blades shapes may include blade member embodiments shown in FIGS. 2A-2C, such as "U"-shape (FIG. 2A), or linear (FIG. 2B), may be employed in embodiments of the cutting tool. Options for various

blade shapes include serrated (FIG. 2C) or smooth edges. Those familiar with the art of blade design can easily determine functional blade members for various embodiments of the cutting tool. In any case the blade member should be made from a material which does not easily rust or lose its sharpness even if used in sea (salt) water, for example stainless steel. In addition a petroleum-based gel, wax, or other similar material could be used to coat the blade member further protecting it from rusting. The coating material would be weak enough to easily yield to the line that is to be cut, not interfering with the cutting ability of the blade member.